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No. 145

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 8, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOSÉ E. SERRANO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Rev. Todd Jones, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, before Whom generations rise and pass away, we give thanks today for this Nation, "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," that all bear some mark of the Divine image. So bless this body of legislators with wisdom and a passion "to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with Thee."

Guide and direct their work, O Lord, that it may bring blessing and honor to this land and lead to an increase of freedom, a deepening of joy, and enrich the health and welfare of all her citizens. Grant that a large-hearted and clear-minded spirit may prevail and that our Nation's common good may be served and strengthened by the actions of this body.

Establish this Nation in righteousness, O God, and grant that we may be makers of peace, artisans of goodness, and keepers of the bright light of freedom.

We pray this in the name of the Living God, the Creator and Redeemer of all that is or ever shall be.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. GRIFFITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GRIFFITH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1037. An act direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility and advisability of expanding the scope of certain qualifying work-study activities under title 38, United States Code.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 942. An act to prevent abuse of Government charge cards.

WELCOMING REV. TODD JONES, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee, Congressman COOPER, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome to the Chamber today Rev. Dr. Todd Jones and his wife,

Connie. Dr. Jones is the reverend at the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has led that congregation since 2002. He is a native of Pennsylvania who was educated at the University of Pittsburgh and went on to get his degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. After that, he did a 1-year fellowship in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh.

He first pastored at churches in South Carolina, where he had attended Presbyterian College. We feel very graced to have his presence in Nashville, Tennessee. He does a superb job, and he is very active in the community.

For example, he is on the board of the Boy Scouts as well as Goodwill Industries. So we are very thankful for his leading this body in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MISSILE DEFENSE DECISIONS

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the American people about the current situation in the Middle East. On September 28, Iran launched and tested a Shahab-3 missile which has a range of 1,200 kilometers and puts American soldiers and our allies in the Middle East in danger. These tests must be met with stern opposition.

Having recently returned from Israel and Egypt, I had the opportunity to meet with officials and members of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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